

## **Environmental and Sustainability Policy**

Canterbury Christ Church University is a large organisation with some 1700 staff and 17000 students across 5 campuses and centres in Kent. The University recognises that it has an impact upon the environment both locally and globally and is committed to minimising, within the constraints imposed by financial sustainability, any negative effects the delivery of its core activities of teaching, research and knowledge exchange might have. The University is committed to sustainable development based on clear key performance indicators, to ensure management is focused on key objectives and that targets are met, and to ensuring that the positive impacts of education for sustainable development are maximised. This policy statement operates within the wider context of the strategic plan, which covers Environmental Responsibility and Sustainability.

The University is committed to continually improve its environmental performance through the implementation of an environmental management system (EMS) to achieve this in a structured way. The University will provide the human and financial resources required to implement this EMS.

### **The Principles**

The University will:

1. Comply with all relevant UK, EU and HE sector environmental legislation, regulations and requirements.
2. Integrate environmental management through the implementation of an environmental management system (EMS) that seeks to manage environmental risk and continually improve environmental performance.
3. Through curriculum development, research and training ensure that students and staff have the opportunity to engage with the critical debate on environmental and wider issues of sustainable development.
4. Implement its carbon management plan in order to achieve a 35% reduction in scope 1&2 emissions and a 20% reduction in scope 3 emissions from business travel, water and waste, from a 2009/10 baseline by 2016.
5. Minimise waste and pollution through the reduction of emissions and discharges, sound purchasing strategies, reuse of resources, recycling activities and effective operating procedures, and target a 20% increase in recycling rates from 30% to 50% by 2016 and 75% by 2020.
6. Implement the Travel Plan to ensure an environmentally sound approach to transport and travel within the context of a multi-campus University.
7. Implement sustainable procurement policies and procedures and target achievement of level 3 on the flexible framework by AY 2015/16 in order to minimise the University's indirect impact on the environment.
8. Ensure that assessment of environmental risk is included as part of the University's risk management framework for all physical and operational changes to the University estate.

9. Maintain the grounds and buildings of the University in an environmentally sensitive way; publish a biodiversity policy and individual biodiversity action plans for all campuses.
10. Work with other Universities and Colleges at local and national level to promote and develop environmental good practice.
11. Minimise its negative impact on, whilst engaging proactively with the local community as part of a wider Community Engagement Strategy.
12. Attain a minimum of BREEAM Excellent for all new developments and refurbishments. Implement the Carbon Management Plan targeting each building in turn as major works are required, with an holistic and low carbon strategy.
13. Promote this policy and implement a University-wide communication, engagement and development strategy to support the need for individual and collective cognitive and behavioural change relating to environmental impact.

Key objectives and targets have been set for all significant environmental impacts and are listed in the appended Environmental Aspects and Impacts register.

The main responsibility for implementation of this policy lies with the Vice Chancellor as the University's Chief Executive. The Vice Chancellor will normally delegate responsibility for the development of the policy to one of the Pro-Vice Chancellors who, working through the Sustainability Strategic Management Committee and its sub committees, will ensure delivery of the sustainability objectives outlined in the strategic plan.

The Heads of Department are responsible for ensuring compliance with University Environmental and Sustainability Policy within their area of control. The University will actively monitor the performance of Departments in the implementation of the key objectives of this Policy in the activities under their control.

Whilst the University accepts the main responsibility for implementation of this policy, individuals have a very important role in co-operating with those responsible for safeguarding the environment. Individuals are required to abide by rules and requirements made under the authority of this policy.

The University will continually monitor and review its procedures in respect of its commitment to sustainable development. This policy will be reviewed at least annually and revised as appropriate in line with the objectives determined as part of our Environmental Management System.

Dr Keith Gwilym  
Pro Vice Chancellor (Learning & Quality)  
March 2011